



**United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia**

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PRESS RELEASE

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Man Found Guilty of Multiple Counts of First Degree Sexual Abuse and Malicious Disfigurement in Domestic Violence Case

WASHINGTON - A 31-year-old El Salvadoran man, Carlos W. Escalante, of Annandale, Virginia, has been found guilty of violent sexual assaults in a domestic violence case, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen announced today. The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced before the Honorable Gerald I. Fisher on September 17, 2010. The defendant is facing a sentence of 348 to 720 months of incarceration under the D.C. Superior Court voluntary sentencing guidelines.

Escalante was found guilty late yesterday by a D.C. Superior Court jury of First Degree Sexual Abuse and First Degree Sexual Abuse while Armed in addition to multiple counts of threatening the victim, malicious disfigurement while armed, and violations of court orders.

According to the government's evidence, between September 2008 and June 22, 2009, the defendant repeatedly assaulted, threatened and sexually abused the victim with whom he was living. The defendant often threatened to kill the victim if she reported the abuse or sought help. The defendant was particularly brutal on days that had special meaning to the victim – her birthday, her son's birthday, days of celebration in Mexico.

On October 4, 2009, the victim's birthday, the defendant took the victim to Rock Creek Park. Once they reached a picnic area inside the park, the defendant held a knife to the complainant's neck while he raped her.

On February 15, 2009, the birthday of the victim's son who lived in Mexico, the defendant held the victim down, and, with a razor blade, carved his initial into her chest. The defendant then raped the victim.

On or about May 5, 2009, the victim finally applied for a Civil Protection Order. On June 20, 2009, the defendant violated that court order by entering the group house in which the complainant lived in Northwest Washington, D.C. The victim reported the sexual abuse to a friend on June 21, 2009. That friend called the police and the defendant was arrested at

the residence after attempting to escape through a window and into a back alley.

In announcing the jury's verdict, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of MPD Detective Leon Epps, Officers Michael Thomas, Julius Smith, Lacarha Garrett, Daniel Baez, and Enrique Valdes. He also praised the work of paralegal Eugena Johnson, legal assistant Etta Ford and litigation technology specialist Leif Hickling. U.S. Attorney Machen specially praised the work of victim advocate Melissa Milam who worked closely over a long period of time with the victim of this very difficult case. Finally, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Ari Redbord, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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